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COSTA RICA: PRESIDENT CARRAZO 'PLEASED' WITH REAGAN SPEECH

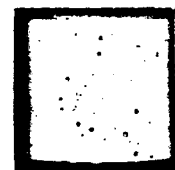
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(TEXT) SAN JOSE, 24 FEB (ACAN-EFE)--COSTA RICAN PRESIDENT RODRIGO CARRAZO WAS PLEASED TO HEAR U.S. PRESIDENT REAGAN'S ANNOUNCEMENT ON AN ECONOMIC AID PROGRAM FOR CENTRAL AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN.

REGARDING COSTA RICA, PRESIDENT CARRAZO SAID: "THE IMPORTANT MEASURES TO OPEN TRADE AND CREDIT, AS WELL AS BUDGET AID, REPRESENT CONSIDERABLE U.S. ASSISTANCE TO OUR COUNTRY."

ABOUT THE CARIBBEAN REGION, THE COSTA RICAN PRESIDENT SAID: "I DEFINITELY BELIEVE THAT THE MEASURES ANNOUNCED BY THE HEAD OF THE U.S. GOVERNMENT REPRESENT A PRACTICAL SOLUTION TO THE PRESSING PROBLEMS AFFECTING MORE THAN 15 CARIBBEAN COUNTRIES, ON THE CONTINENT AS WELL AS IN THE ISLANDS."

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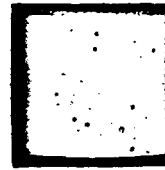
R 17102)1BYLUIVCZC

24RR-PLAN-ORS (4 TAKES)\*

4BY DAVID HUME\*

WASHINGTON, FEB 24, REUTER -- NICARAGUA AND GRENADA TODAY REJECTED PRESIDENT REAGAN'S CHARGE THAT THE CARIBBEAN AND CENTRAL AMERICA ARE THREATENED BY CUBA AND "THE TIGHTENING GRIP OF THE TOTALITARIAN LEFT" IN NICARAGUA AND GRENADA. IN A MAJOR POLICY SPEECH TO THE ORGANIZATION OF AMERICAN STATES (OAS), MR REAGAN SAID CUBA, NICARAGUA AND GRENADA COULD BE ELIGIBLE FOR THE INCREASED AID HE PROPOSED ONLY IF THEY RETURNED TO THE HEMISPHERE'S "TRADITIONS AND COMMON VALUES." "WE TOTALLY REJECT THE PRESIDENT'S CHARGES," SAID NICARAGUA'S AMBASSADOR TO THE OAS CASIMIRO SOTELO. "WE FLATLY DENY THE HARSH POLITICAL CONCEPTS OF THE PRESIDENT," SAID OAS AMBASSADOR DESSIMA WILLIAMS FROM THE CARIBBEAN ISLAND OF GRENADA. MR REAGAN SAID THE UNITED STATES DID NOT WANT TO EXCLUDE ANY NEEDY NATIONS FROM HELP. "SOME, HOWEVER, HAVE TURNED FROM THEIR AMERICAN NEIGHBORS AND THEIR HERITAGE," HE SAID, ADDING THAT THEY WOULD BE WELCOME TO AID IF THEY RETURNED TO THE "TRADITIONS AND THE COMMON VALUES" OF THE HEMISPHERE. CUBA IS NOT AN OAS MEMBER AND DID NOT ATTEND THE MEETING.\*

MORE 1814 OH



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R 17110)2BYLUIVZBT

27AK-PLAN-0AS 2 WASHINGTON

MR REAGAN SAID THE CARIBBEAN BASIN CAN EITHER FACE A DARK FUTURE OR ONE BRIGHT; WITH HELP FROM ITS NEIGHBORS.

"THE DARK FUTURE IS FORESHADOWED BY THE POVERTY AND REPRESSION OF CASTRO'S CUBA; THE TIGHTENING GRIP OF THE TOTALITARIAN LEFT IN GRENADA AND NICARAGUA; AND THE EXPANSION OF THE SOVIET-BACKED; CUBAN-MANAGED SUPPORT FOR VIOLENT REVOLUTION IN CENTRAL AMERICA;" SAID THE PRESIDENT.

"WE ARE NOT THE ONES WHO PROVOKED THE ESTRANGEMENT;" SAID MR SOTELO; THE ONLY OAS REPRESENTATIVE WHO DID NOT APPLAUD AFTER MR REAGAN FINISHED READING HIS SPEECH.

MR SOTELO DENIED THE PRESIDENT'S CHARGES THAT NICARAGUA IS PROVIDING LEFTIST GUERRILLAS IN EL SALVADOR WITH ARMS AND SAID HIS GOVERNMENT HAD ASKED THE UNITED STATES SEVERAL TIMES TO PROVIDE PROOF THAT NICARAGUA IS ALSO BEING USED AS A CONDUIT FOR WEAPONS TO INSURGENTS IN OTHER CENTRAL AMERICAN COUNTRIES.

"IT (THE SPEECH) WAS TO BE EXPECTED. IT IS ONE MORE INDICATION OF THE PRESIDENT'S RHETORIC AGAINST NICARAGUA;" SAID MR SOTELO.

"IT SHOWS HIS COMPLETE IGNORANCE OF THE NICARAGUAN REALITY."†

MORE 1817 OH



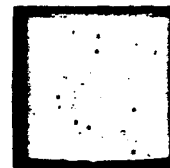
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R 17117)3BYLUIVEYL

7PM-PLAN-085 3 WASHINGTON

IN HIS SPEECH, MR REAGAN CHARGED THAT "FOR ALMOST TWO YEARS, NICARAGUA HAS SERVED AS A PLATFORM FOR COVERT MILITARY ACTION. THROUGH NICARAGUA, ARMS ARE BEING SMUGGLED TO GUERRILLAS IN EL SALVADOR AND GUATEMALA." ALTHOUGH MOST OF THE CENTRAL AND SOUTH AMERICAN AMBASSADORS DECLINED IMMEDIATE COMMENT ON THE PLAN, SEVERAL REPRESENTATIVES OF CARIBBEAN ISLAND NATIONS SAID THEY FELT THE PLAN DOES NOT ADDRESS MAJOR PROBLEMS SUCH AS THE LACK OF ELECTRICITY, PAVED ROADS, SEWER SYSTEMS AND COMMUNICATIONS. "THE PRIVATE SECTOR WILL NOT GET OFF THE GROUND UNLESS THE INFRASTRUCTURE IS THERE TO GET IT OFF THE GROUND," SAID MRS WILLIAMS.

ANOTHER AMBASSADOR, WHO ASKED HE NOT BE IDENTIFIED BECAUSE OF HIS HIGH OAS POSITION, COMPLAINED THAT THE MOST IMPORTANT INVESTMENT POSSIBILITIES FOR THE PRIVATE SECTOR IN THE REGION, TEXTILES AND CLOTHING, ARE EXCLUDED. "THAT'S WHAT CREATES JOBS," SAID THE AMBASSADOR. MR REAGAN SAID THE UNITED STATES COULD NOT ADMIT TEXTILES AND CLOTHING DUTY FREE BECAUSE THOSE GOODS ARE COVERED BY OTHER INTERNATIONAL AGREEMENTS. \*  
MORE 1819 DH



111R243

R 17123)LEYLUIVZYR

171R-PLAN-085 4 WASHINGTON

THE HIGH OAS OFFICIAL SAID MOST OF THE ADDITIONAL 350 MILLION DOLLARS IN ECONOMIC AID THAT MR REAGAN WANTS TO EARMARK FOR CARIBBEAN BASIN DEVELOPMENT WOULD GO TO CENTRAL AMERICAN COUNTRIES SUCH AS EL SALVADOR AND COSTA RICA AND VERY LITTLE TO THE CARIBBEAN.

"IF IT EVER WORKS IN PUERTO RICO, THEN I'LL BE CONVINCED," HE SAID.

MANY LATIN AMERICAN AMBASSADORS SUCH AS VENEZUELA'S HILARION CARDOZO WERE CAUTIOUS BECAUSE DEVELOPMENT AID AND PRIVATE SECTOR INVESTMENTS HAVE BEEN "USED IN THE PAST TO DESTABILIZE" GOVERNMENTS OF THE REGION.

"WE HAVE TO DETERMINE THE POLITICAL CONSEQUENCES OF SUCH INVESTMENT CAPITAL," SAID MR CARDOZO.  
REUTER 1821 DH



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R 17072)1BYLZYRRYR

ZFRN-REAGAN-PLAN-CUBAN (2 TAKES)Z

HAVANA, FEB 24, REUTER -- A CUBAN OFFICIAL SAID TODAY THAT PRESIDENT REAGAN'S CARIBBEAN ECONOMIC AID PLAN WOULD UNILATERALLY IMPOSE U.S. VIEWS ON THE REGION.

THE OFFICIAL, WHO ASKED NOT TO BE IDENTIFIED, SAID MR REAGAN'S PLAN WOULD RESULT IN A "PAX AMERICANA IN THE REGION WHERE THE UNITED STATES IMPOSES ITS VIEWS WITHOUT ANY NEGOTIATIONS WITH NATIONS THAT MIGHT OPPOSE THEM."

THE OFFICIAL ALSO SAID "REAGAN TOTALLY IGNORED MEXICAN PRESIDENT (JOSE) LOPEZ PORTILLO'S PROPOSAL OF LAST SUNDAY IN WHICH HE CALLED ON THE UNITED STATES TO SEEK A NEGOTIATED POLITICAL SETTLEMENT BASED ON MUTUAL CONCESSION IN ORDER TO BRING ABOUT A LESSENING OF TENSIONS IN CENTRAL AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN."

FOLLOWING MR REAGAN'S SPEECH TODAY, ONE WESTERN DIPLOMAT, WHO REQUESTED ANONYMITY, SAID THAT "FROM ALL AVAILABLE SIGNS, CUBA WOULD BE READY TODAY TO SIT DOWN WITH THE UNITED STATES TO DISCUSS OUTSTANDING DIFFERENCES."

IN HIS SPEECH ON SUNDAY, THE MEXICAN PRESIDENT SAID DEVELOPMENTS IN EL SALVADOR AND ELSEWHERE IN CENTRAL AMERICA DID NOT REPRESENT "ANY INTOLERABLE DANGER FOR THE FUNDAMENTAL INTERESTS AND THE NATIONAL SECURITY OF THE UNITED STATES."Z  
MORE 1807 JC



111R239

R 17082) LBYLZYRIYC

24AM-REAGAN-PLAN-CUBAN 2 HAVANA

IN A LETTER TO MR LOPEZ PORTILLO MONDAY, CUBAN PRESIDENT  
FIDEL CASTRO SAID THE MEXICAN PRESIDENT COULD COUNT ON CUBA  
"TO FIND WAYS TO ELIMINATE THE TENSIONS AND OPEN THE WAY TO A  
DEMOCRATIC AND PEACEFUL SOLUTION TO THE TROUBLESOME PROBLEMS  
THAT WEIGH DOWN ON THE MAJORITY OF NATIONS OF THE REGION."

"IF THE GOVERNMENT OF THE UNITED STATES, THE SOURCE OF ALL  
THE PROBLEMS THAT AFFECT LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN TODAY,  
AGREES NOT TO INVADE ITS NEIGHBORS, ENDS ITS CONTINUOUS  
THREATS, STOPS EMPLOYING ITS WEAPONS AND MONEY TO SUPPORT  
GENOCIDAL REGIMES AND CEASES ITS SUBVERSIVE ACTIVITIES, THEN  
CUBA IS READY TO COLLABORATE...IN BRINGING TO THE REGION AN  
ATMOSPHERE OF PEACE, MUTUAL RESPECT AND NECESSARY  
TRANSFORMATION TO WHICH WE, TOO, ASPIRE."

REUTER 1809 JC

